

# ENERGY TIDBITS

October 2005

Energy Star Home Grant applications for homes that will be built in 2006 are now available at [www.michigan.gov/eoresidential](http://www.michigan.gov/eoresidential). Five licensed builders will receive grants up to \$8,000 each to build and promote an Energy Star home. The deadline for grant applications is Dec. 15, 2005.

Unleashing the Potential: Future of Energy in Michigan (October 20) and Wind Energy in Michigan (October 21) Conferences will be held in downtown Lansing at the Radisson Hotel. The Future of Energy in Michigan will provide a forum on successful energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and Wind Energy in Michigan will cover both small and large wind energy systems. [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org)

Public Comments on Detroit Edison's Green Power Program can be made to the MPSC until October 14. Under the Detroit Edison proposal (go to [www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc) and search for U-14569), residential customers could purchase either 50% or 100% of their electric requirements from renewable resources for a price premium of 2 cents/kWh. Non-residential customers could also contract for the monthly purchase of any number of blocks of 1,000 kWh. The proposed program is designed to accommodate about 1% of the company's residential sales prior to the end of 2006 and 2-3% of residential sales by the end of 2008. It would initially use renewable energy credits from the Great Lakes region. A renewable energy credit (REC) is a tradable certificate of proof that one kWh of electricity has been generated by a renewable-fueled source and then sold to an end-user. Comments may be e-mailed to [mpscefilecases@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscefilecases@michigan.gov). Written comments should be mailed to the Executive Secretary, MPSC, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, MI 48909. All comments should reference Case No. U-14569 and must be received no later than Oct. 14.

Workshop Funding Opportunity to support regional workshops or events that increase agency and facility manager awareness about energy efficiency in public buildings. Lighting, water conservation, building controls, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and transportation are all examples of components of a facility that could be upgraded, repaired and/or maintained to reduce energy consumption and save money. The maximum award for each workshop or event is \$2,500. Rebuild Michigan Workshop and Event funds will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis October 1, 2005 until September 1, 2006 or until all money is distributed, whichever occurs first. For more information visit [www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice)

US BioEnergy Corp. has announced that they will build an US Bio Superior Corn ethanol plant near Lake Odessa. Annually, US Bio Superior Corn will produce 45 million gallons of ethanol and 136,000 tons of dried distiller's grains. In order to meet those production levels, it will use around 16 million bushels of corn per year that will come from within an approximate 60 mile radius of the site. This project is expected to be completed by fall of 2006. Once operational, it will employ around 40 people.

Consumers Energy has reached supply purchase agreements for renewable energy with 5 independent developers proposing 7 separate projects. Consumers Energy has filed an application with the MPSC seeking approval of the supply purchase agreements. The proposed projects are all located in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Consumers Energy's new Green Generation program will be offered to customers in late September. The projects represent approximately 238,000 megawatt-hours annually, enough electric capacity to serve an estimated 30,000 residential customers. Two of the new projects will be from wind power, while the remaining five projects will come from landfill gas facilities. One of the wind projects is the 21-turbine Mackinaw Power Project being developed by Rich Vanderveen in Oceana County. The other wind power project will be called Noble Thumb Wind Park.

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Petersen Oil & Propane is in the process of constructing a renewable resource fuel center on M-91 just north of Greenville. The new station will offer four fuel options: 80% diesel & 20% soybeans, 95% diesel & 5% soybeans, 90% gasoline & 10% ethanol, and 85% ethanol & 15% gasoline.

Midwest Green Building Conference & Workshop will be held on October 19-20 at the IHM Motherhouse in Monroe and will include a variety of energy and green building topics. Contact: [svenier@ihmsisters.org](mailto:svenier@ihmsisters.org) or 734-240-9754

Kodak Plant in Rochester, N.Y. significantly improved the energy efficiency of its two lake-water pumping stations in December 2003. Dr. Barry Erickson of Flowserve Corp. used the DOE Pumping System Assessment Tool (PSAT) to evaluate the plant's two pumping stations served by 12 pumps with an aggregate horsepower of 7,450 hp. Flowserve found that many of the pumps had a low ratio of flow rate to input power, expressed as gallons per minute per kilowatt (gpm/kW). There were also some unnecessary flow restrictions, and some pumps were operating during peak hours that could operate more economically off peak. The improvement project included trimming impellers, replacing valves, and reconfiguring piping. Plant staff then selected and combined pumps that could achieve the highest gpm/kW ratio. The improved efficiency has yielded annual energy savings of 1,092,000 kWh and energy cost savings of \$52,000. Because the pumps are being used more optimally and during off-peak hours, the plant has reduced annual demand charges by an additional \$48,000. With total project costs of \$25,000, the project had a 3-month simple payback. <http://www.eere.energy.gov/industry/bestpractices/software.html>

Energy Policy Act of 2005 Frequently Asked Questions will be added to the Energy Office web site at [www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice) in the near future.

Solar Panel Workshop will be held at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings on October 29, 9 am - 1 pm. This workshop helps those interested in solar design build a small photovoltaic system that can power a small TV or computer, power tools, or anything that uses no more than 500 watts. Pre-registration is required. The workshop is limited to 12 people. Call 269-721-4190 to register.

"If I could change one thing about American foreign policy, what would it be? The answer is easy, but it's not something most of us think of as foreign policy. I would adopt a serious national program geared toward energy efficiency and independence." (Fareed Zakaria, Newsweek, Sept. 5, 2005)



Prior issues of Energy Tidbits are at:

[www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice) under Publications.

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